

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 OES-07

OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 AID-05 /053 W

-----088967 062323Z /63

O 062304Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7371

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 00258

EO 11652 : GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - DEA TDY SUPPORT OF GOM ERADICATION
PROGRAM

REF: STATE 001314

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON REFTEL
AND RECOMMENDS THAT BUDGET BE APPROVED. WE HAVE DIS-
CUSSED SUBJECT WITH ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE, WHICH HAS
NO OBJECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. NAME OF OPERATION. WE HAD ASSUMED FROM PARA 7 OF
77 MEXICO 16372, WHICH PROPOSED BOTH A NAME CHANGE AND
GREATER FLEXIBILITY, AND SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES SUCH AS
77 DEA 36054, WHICH IMPLIED APPROVAL OF THAT PROPOSAL,
THAT THE NAME "TRIZO" WOULD BE CHANGED. THE EMBASSY
ENDORSED THIS CONCEPT AS ONE WAY OF DRIVING HOME THAT,
NO MATTER HOW WE HAD PERCEIVED THE ROLE OF DEA TDY
PERSONNEL IN THE PAST, IN ALL FUTURE PHASES THESE INDI-
VIDUALS WOULD BE BOTH MONITORS OF GOM ACTIVITIES AND
ADVISORS ON IMPROVING THE ERADICATION PROGRAM. WHETHER
OR NOT THE NAME IS CHANGED, WE INTEND TO KEEP DEA TDY
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PERSONNEL IN THE MONITOR-ADVISORY STATUS THAT BEGAN
EARLIER AND WAS SOLIDIFIED LAST SEPTEMBER
FOLLOWING THE GROUNDING OF DEA AIRCRAFT. WE ALSO INTEND
TO ADOPT THE MEXICAN ZONE IDENTIFICATIONS, WHICH
REPORTS ACTIVITY ON THE BASIS OF THIRTEEN ZONES, ABAN-
DONING ALL REFERENCE TO THE THREE ZONES USED PREVIOUSLY
IN "TRIZO" REPORTING.

3. RE PARA SIX REFTEL, WE URGE THAT ALL RPT ALL SPECIAL AGENTS COME FIRST TO MEXICO CITY WHERE THEY CAN BE BRIEFED BY ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE AND BE INTRODUCED TO THEIR COUNTERPARTS (WHOM WE CAN EXPECT ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CALL TO MEXICO FOR THE BRIEFING). SUCH A MEETING WOULD UNDERSCORE FOR THE AGENTS COUNTERPARTS THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL IS HERE AT THE INVITATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND, BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER TDY SPECIALISTS, GIVE THE AGENTS A "MANAGEMENT BLESSING" WHICH WILL FACILITATE THEIR ACCEPTANCE IN THE FIELD.

4. RE PARA EIGHT, WE WOULD EXPECT LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE FIELD, PARTICULARLY AS THEY WILL BE MORE WIDELY DISPERSED THAN INDICATED IN PARA FOUR REFTEL, TO JUSTIFY NOMINAL COST OF LIGHT TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT BASED IN MEXICO CITY. BUDGET FOR DC-3 ANTICIPATES 60 HOURS UTILIZATION WHICH MAY WELL PROVE EXCESSIVE BUT APPEARS TO BE AS GOOD A GUESS AS ANY.

5. RE PARA NINE REFTEL, HF-SSB EQUIPMENT USED BY DEA CAN BE TUNED TO ATTORNEY GENERALS FREQUENCIES IF NEEDED.

6. RE PARA TEN REFTEL, WE CONCUR THAT PUBLICITY SHOULD BE MINIMIZED AND, HERE IN MEXICO, INTEND TO CONTINUE LONG-EXISTING EMBASSY GUIDANCE ON THIS MATTER.
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7. FIRST THREE SENTENCES OF PARA ELEVEN REFTEL IMPLY THAT THE GOM PERCEIVES THIS ACTIVITY IN A PURELY NEGATIVE SENSE. IT IS INDEED TRUE THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HIS STAFF REALIZE THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE MONITORING THEIR ERADICATION PERFORMANCE, YET HE REPEATEDLY ASKS VISITORS AS WELL AS OUR PERMANENT STAFF TO POINT OUT PROBLEM AREAS AND RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS. THUS THE GOM, BOTH IN MEXICO CITY AND TO VARYING DEGREES IN THE FIELD (DEPENDING ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE MEXICAN ZONE COORDINATOR), HAS WELCOMED DEA TDY PARTICIPATION IN THE PAST AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO DO SO THIS TIME AROUND.

8. THE BALANCE OF PARA ELEVEN IMPLIES THAT DEA TDY PERSONNEL HAVE THUS FAR BEEN INVOLVED SOLELY IN INDEPENDENT OBSERVATION AND INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, THAT WHAT THE USG REALLY NEEDS IS FIELD MANAGEMENT ADVISORS, AND THAT THIS FUNCTION COULD BE PERFORMED BY ONE OR TWO PERMANENT PEOPLE IN THE FIELD. HOWEVER:

(A.) AS MENTIONED IN PARA TWO ABOVE, THE NARCOTICS ATTACHE HERE DID IN FACT PROPOSE TO DEA HEADQUARTERS THE

PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT OF THREE SUCH INDIVIDUALS IN FIELD LOCATIONS, TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY TDY PERSONNEL DURING INTENSIVE PERIODS OF THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. HE WAS ADVISED THAT POSITIONS WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ONE OR TWO INDIVIDUALS ALONE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MONITOR THE USE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SO MANY GOM PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT SPREAD

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OVER SO LARGE AN ERADICATION AREA, AND, SINCE IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT THE PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT OF SUFFICIENT SUCH MONITOR-ADVISORS, WE CONTINUE TO RELY ON TDY PERSONNEL AT PEAK PERIODS OF THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN.

(B.) IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE CHANGE FROM INDEPENDENT OBSERVATION PROPOSED IN REFTTEL HAD, AS NOTED IN PARA TWO ABOVE, ALREADY BEGUN AS "TRIZO" PHASES EVOLVED AND WAS COMPLETED WHEN DEA AIRCRAFT WERE GROUNDED LAST SEPTEMBER. THE NARCOTICS ATTACHE AND HIS STAFF HAVE ALREADY PREPARED PLANS TO CONTINUE THIS MODE OF OPERATION, INCLUDING A WIDER DEPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL THAN INDICATED IN REFTTEL, WHEN THE TDY PERSONNEL ARRIVE THIS MONTH. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS ERADICATION-RELATED INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION WHICH WILL HAVE TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT UNTIL WE HAVE CONVINCED THE GOM TO ASSIGN PERSONNEL FOR THIS FUNCTION.

(C.) AS TO THE DEBILITATING EFFECT ON DEA CAUSED BY TDY ASSIGNMENTS, WE BELIEVE THIS IS A PROBLEM FOR DEA HEADQUARTERS TO EVALUATE ON THE BASIS OF ITS OVERALL

PRIORITIES. EMBASSY COMMENT ON THIS QUESTION DOES NOT
APPEAR APPROPRIATE. CALDERHEAD
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